

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 38, 40 and 42 are currently active in the present application. Claims 1, 9, 27, 29-37, 39, 41 and 43 are canceled and Claims 38, 40 and 42 are amended by the present amendment. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10-15, 17-22, 24-26 and 28 were previously canceled and Claims 4, 7, 16 and 23 stand withdrawn as directed to non-elected inventions.

This amendment is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, which after final rejection permits entering of amendments, canceling claims, complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action, or presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

In the Office Action mailed February 24, 2005, Claims 1, 9, 27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Masuda et al. (herein “Masuda”) and Hiura et al. (herein “Hiura”); Claims 31, 34 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Masuda in view of Hiura and U.S. Patent No. 6,157,747 to Szeliski et al. (herein “Szeliski”); Claims 39, 41 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Masuda in view of Hiura and Sato et al. (herein “Sato”); and Claims 38, 40 and 42 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner’s indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Claims 38, 40 and 42 are amended to be in independent form as suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 38, 40 and 42 are allowable.

Further, Claims 1, 9, 27, 29-37, 39, 41 and 43 are canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering moot the rejections in the Office Action.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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